

# Boone County Headlight

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SKULL AND CROSSBONES are painted on a sign at the entrance to the Arkwood Superfund site near Omaha. The EPA recently released a report on the

status of the site that said contaminated soil may be removed from the 20 acres this summer. Times Staff Photo

## Contaminated Soil May Be Dug at Arkwood Site: EPA

Contaminated soil may be dug up from the Arkwood Superfund site near Omaha this summer and taken to an offsite incinerator.

The 20-acre site southwest of Omaha is 1,000 feet west of U. S. Highway 65 and north of Cricket Road.

The plan was disclosed in written release from the federal Environmental Protection Agency that was received in Harrison this week.

The former wood treatment facility is on the Superfund cleanup list of the nation's most hazardous sites because of cancer-causing pentachlorophenol. Soil on the property is

contaminated and PCP was found in two springs and three wells nearby.

The EPA reported this week that scientists hired by Mass Merchandisers Incorporated, which operated the creosote treatment plant most recently, had completed the first phase of their study.

"An Administrative Order is being prepared that would allow MMI to remove the major source material and take it to an offsite, permitted incinerator," the EPA announced. "If an acceptable incinerator is located, the removal could take place in late summer."

The EPA said the upper six inches of soil on the Arkwood property was most contaminated but there was some contamination down to five feet.

It said air samples taken while monitoring wells were being drilled "indicated that some of the site soil was found to contain organic vapors, but only at very low concentrations. The particulate sampling did not indicate a problem and no further analysis was conducted."

In a summary of what the scientists found, the EPA said 15 of the 35 additional wells in the area were sampled and found to be uncontaminated by PCP. It said six new wells were drilled to monitor underground water further.

Thirteen springs were sampled and only New Cricket Spring was contaminated with PCP, the EPA reported. It said Walnut and Cricket Creeks were not contaminated by Arkwood.

It said ditches had been dug to stop contaminated surface water from running off the site.

EPA information on Arkwood is available at the school library at Omaha and the Boone County public library and the county clerk's office at Harrison.

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